

A/AC.172/1996/CRP.4
26 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session of 1996
19-23 August 1996
Agenda item 2 (c)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO
SECTION I, PARAGRAPH 7, OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 40/243

Note by the Secretariat

1. In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, the General Assembly decided that "no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly".

2. Every year, a certain number of requests for exceptions to that rule are received. In accordance with established practice, the requests are first submitted to the Committee on Conferences, which then makes a recommendation to the General Assembly for the required authorization.

3. At its 1986 session, the Committee on Conferences reviewed the procedure by which it dealt with such requests and decided that in future the following procedure should be adopted: 1/

(a) Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly wishing to request explicit authorization from the Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the session should write to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, except for unforeseen circumstances, before the substantive session of the Committee; the letter should be circulated to all members of the Committee, together with appropriate servicing information provided by the Secretariat;

(b) The request should contain the reason or reasons why the authorization is being requested and/or the reason or reasons why the organ concerned did not finish its work during the time allotted to it and in compliance with the 1 September deadline for the completion of reports of subsidiary organs of the Assembly laid down in Assembly resolution 40/243, section I, paragraph 6;

(c) The request should also explain why it is necessary to meet during the Assembly and should specify, to the extent possible, the number of meetings that would be required;

(d) In the event that approval is forthcoming, all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an "as available" basis from within existing resources in such a way that the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees is not impeded.

4. The annex to the present document contains requests received to date from subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the fifty-first session of the Assembly, as well as the relevant statistical information.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/41/32), para. 64.

Annex

I. REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS DURING THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the
Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations
New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Letter from the Principal Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the
Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries

[Original: English]

[5 July 1996]

I would like to bring to your attention that the recently held organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to conduct the mid-term review starting on 16 September 1996. As the fifty-first session of the General Assembly will be inaugurated in the afternoon of 17 September 1996, the organizational session decided to recommend to the Assembly at its fiftieth session that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee be extended for the period set out in paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 50/160 for the conduct of the mid-term review.

I would also like to recall the interoffice memorandum of Mr. Fernando Varela, Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, dated 11 December 1995, in which he announced that he would convey to the President of the General Assembly that the Committee on Conferences had recommended to the Assembly that an exception be granted to section I, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243, authorizing the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to meet in New York for the period indicated in resolution 50/160 of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you of the decision of the organizational session to grant maximum participation to non-governmental organizations in the mid-term review in conformity with established rules and accepted practices, and in concurrence with the above-mentioned resolution 50/160.

I would like, therefore, to request that the necessary arrangements be made to have the following conference rooms booked from 16 September until and including 23 September 1996, with the exception of the afternoon of 17 September 1996: one conference room for the plenary with full interpretation facilities in six languages; and two conference rooms for the two working groups with interpretation only in three languages (English, French and Spanish) for the entire duration. In addition, one of the alphabet rooms would be needed for five working days (16 to 22 September 1996) for the use of non-governmental organizations.

/...

B. Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter from the Chairman

[Original: English]

[6 June 1996]

As in previous years, a request that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country be permitted to meet during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly is herewith submitted.

This request is based on the Committee's mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971 authorizing the Committee to meet periodically during the year or whenever the need arises. The Committee, since its establishment in 1971, has always met during the regular sessions of the General Assembly in order to consider, among other things, problems experienced by certain delegations in acquiring the necessary United States entry visas to attend the session, to finalize its annual report and to present it to the General Assembly.

Pursuant to its resolution 50/49 of 11 December 1995, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue its work in conformity with Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) and to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its fifty-first session (item 152 of the preliminary list). Having due regard to the nature of the Committee, its work, and previous experiences, it would suffice to make the necessary conference facilities available for two or three meetings only.

C. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Letter from the Chairman

[Original: English]

[26 June 1996]

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will again need authorization to hold meetings during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly in order to carry out its mandate.

As you are no doubt aware, the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/84 A of 15 December 1995, requested the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.

As the Committee has no control over the timing of the events that it is called upon to discuss, it needs to meet throughout the year as circumstances dictate. On the basis of past experience, it is envisaged that the Committee

/...

would require facilities for approximately six meetings during the General Assembly session. These would be in addition to the meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is already included in the approved calendar for 1996.

It would be highly appreciated if the Committee on Conferences would agree to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to meet during the fifty-first session of the Assembly.

D. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Letter from the Secretary of the Working Group

[Original: English]

[12 July 1996]

In resolution 50/28 B, adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, on the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Assembly requested that the Working Group continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year.

In order to meet that request, the Working Group needs the latest data with regard to the UNRWA budget, i.e., up-to-date information on the current budget and precise indications as to the revenue required and the anticipated contributions for the next fiscal year. UNRWA has not been in a position to supply the Working Group with this timely information any earlier than September 1996, and the Working Group cannot prepare its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session without this important material.

In view of the obligation of the Working Group to submit its up-to-date report not later than the first half of October for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the General Assembly, little time is available for the few meetings of the Working Group and for the preparation of its report.

It would be very much appreciated if you could draw to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the request of the Working Group that it be authorized to meet during the first weeks of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

E. Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Executive Board

[Original: English]

[12 July 1996]

As was the case last year, we are facing a dilemma with regard to the timing of the third regular session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a partial overlap with the fifty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Executive Board has made it clear that it cannot meet in parallel with the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (24 June-26 July), the third regular session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund (9-13 September) and the General Assembly of the United Nations after 20 September.

On an informal basis, we have been given to understand that the Secretariat could provide full services during the week of 16 to 19 September 1996, subject to the granting of special permission from the General Assembly.

Accordingly, we very much hope that the Committee on Conferences will give favourable consideration to our request to hold the third regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board from 16 to 19 September 1996, with the understanding that no meetings would be held on the afternoon of the opening of the General Assembly, 17 September 1996.

II. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The following statistics refer to meetings with interpretation held during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly by the bodies listed above. The number of meetings planned by subsidiary organs during the regular session is not included because such meetings are approved only on an ad hoc basis and on the understanding that services are provided only as and when they are not required for meetings of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

	Number of meetings held	Hours and minutes lost		Total hours and minutes lost
		Late starting	Early ending	
Committee on Relations with the Host Country	2	0.40	2.55	3.35
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	3	1.30	3.30	5.00
Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1 a/	-	-	-
Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund	8	2.20	3.10	5.30
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s	-	-	-	-

a/ No conference services provided.

**A/AC.172/
1996/CRP.5**

**Readex
Fiche**

A/AC.172/1996/CRP.5
8 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
1996 substantive session
19-23 August 1996
Agenda item 3

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

State of preparation of the documents required for the
substantive session of the Committee on Conferences

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the present document contains a report on the exact state of preparation of all the documents in all languages requested by the Committee on Conferences at its organizational session on 1 February 1996 for submission during its substantive session in August 1996. A listing of those documents and their current status is shown overleaf. A total of 11 documents will have been issued for the Committee's substantive session of 1996.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Status</u>
A/AC.172/1996/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda for the 1996 organizational session	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/1	Agenda and programme of work for 1996	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/2	Calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1996-1997	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/3	Meeting statistics of United Nations organs	To be issued 12 August 1996
A/AC.172/1996/INF/1	Membership of the Committee	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/CRP.1	Medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001: subprogramme on conference services	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/CRP.2	Draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997	Issued
A/AC.172/1996/CRP.3	Cost-accounting system for conference services	To be issued
A/AC.172/1996/CRP.4	Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243	Issued
A/51/253	Measures to enhance utilization of conference services	Issued
A/51/268	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C	To be issued 10 August 1996
